



अद्वैत वेदान्त

advaita vedānta

Acharya Tadany

॥ भगवद् गीता ॥

... Bhagavad Gītā ...

Chapter 3

AI Summary - Class 154

For Bhagavad Gita 2, by Acharya Tadany Cargnin dos Santos

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Quick Summary

Acharya Tadany discussed the revival of ancient teachings and the selection of Arjun as a representative of humanity to preserve and spread these teachings. He emphasized the importance of karma yoga and jñāna yoga in practicing these teachings. Acharya Tadany expressed his commitment to preserving and reviving these teachings for the benefit of mankind.

Summary

Reviving Ancient Teachings for Humanity

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Vedic Teachings and Yoga Paths

Acharya Tadany discussed the Vedic teachings, explaining that each Veda is divided into two main parts: Veda Purva, which teaches Karma Yoga and leads to purity, and Veda Antah, which teaches jñāna Yoga and leads to wisdom. He emphasized that the Vedic knowledge is ancient and was received from wise ancestors, with its origins traceable only as far back as the recorded texts. Acharya Tadany also mentioned that Krishna, as a traditional teacher, was part of this ancient lineage of wisdom.



Krishna's Choice of Arjuna

Acharya Tadany discussed the significance of Krishna choosing Arjuna as his student, emphasizing that Arjuna was chosen because he actively sought Krishna's teachings. Acharya Tadany highlighted the importance of qualities like faith and devotion in a student, and explained that Arjuna's readiness to learn made him an ideal Disciple. Acharya Tadany also noted that even if Arjuna had not asked for the knowledge, Krishna would have offered it due to their friendship, as a true friend helps correct mistakes and guides each other in beneficial actions.

Characteristics of a True Friend

Acharya Tadany discussed the characteristics of a good friend, as described by ancient wisdom, emphasizing that a true friend holds one back from wrongdoings, engages in beneficial actions, keeps secrets, and supports during difficulties. Acharya Tadany explained that a friend's role is to guide and offer solutions, using Arjuna as an example of both a disciple and a friend. They also highlighted that self-knowledge is considered the greatest secret in the universe, as it is often overlooked despite being close to us.

Overlooking What's Close

Acharya Tadany shared a story about a rich man traveling by train who kept his money hidden under the pillow of the thief. And the thief could not find it despite searching for several nights. The story illustrates how people often overlook what is close to them in their search for something valuable. In addition to that, Acharya Tadany shared that, throughout all the various stages of life, from childhood to old age, people are constantly seeking something outside themselves.

Early Wisdom, Timely Learning

Acharya Tadany discussed the teachings of Krishna from the Bhagavad Gītā, emphasizing the importance of wisdom and the right time to learn and apply it. He highlighted that people often wait until retirement to seek knowledge, but true wisdom should be pursued during one's active years. Acharya Tadany also shared an analogy about giving gifts at inappropriate times, comparing it to learning life lessons, and stressed the need to be present and receptive to gain true understanding.

Bhagavad Gītā as Remembered Wisdom

Acharya Tadany explained the significance of the Bhagavad Gītā as a condensed form of Vedic wisdom, distinguishing it from the original Veda, which is called śruti. He described the Gītā as Smṛiti, meaning that which is remembered and passed down by the Rishis, who have already digested half of the wisdom. Acharya Tadany emphasized the importance of approaching this



knowledge with reverence and explained that students only need to absorb and memorize the wisdom that has been passed down by the Rishis.

Krishna's Teachings and Avatar Concept

Acharya Tadanu discussed Arjuna's doubt regarding Krishna's claim to have taught wisdom to Surya Bhagavan at the time of creation, while also teaching Arjuna in the present. Arjuna questioned the chronological discrepancy, as Krishna was recently born, making it difficult to reconcile these statements. Acharya Tadanu explained that Krishna would address this topic in the next class by introducing the concept of avatara.

Key Teachings from Acharya Tadanu's Class

Revival of Ancient Vedic Wisdom

Acharya Tadanu explains that Krishna chose to revive ancient Vedic teachings by selecting Arjuna as a representative of humanity. The teachings being shared are described as "purātana Yogah" - the very same yoga that existed since ancient times, comprising both Karma Yoga and jñāna Yoga. These teachings were previously called "Veda" and are divided into two main parts:

- Veda Purva - teaches Karma Yoga, leading to purity (Chitta Shuddhi)
- Veda Antah - teaches jñāna Yoga, leading to wisdom (jñānam)

Acharya Tadanu emphasizes that even the Vedic rishis declared they were not the inventors of this wisdom but received it from their ancestors. The beginning of this knowledge cannot be traced back beyond the recorded Vedas, making it truly ancient (purātana).

Krishna's Selection of Arjuna as Student

Addressing why Krishna chose Arjuna specifically, Acharya Tadanu explains:

- Arjuna actively asked for the knowledge ("śiṣyaste'haṁ" - "I am your student")
- Arjuna demonstrated the essential qualities of a student: śraddhaḥ (faith) and Bhakti (devotion)
- Arjuna was ready to listen and learn, which Acharya Tadanu describes as rare and valuable
- Even if Arjuna hadn't asked, Krishna would have taught him due to their friendship

Acharya Tadanu quotes Arjuna's surrender from the beginning of the second chapter: "Karpanya-doṣhopahata-svabhāvaḥ" - "My mind is overcome by miserliness/weakness" and "Śiṣhyas te 'haṁ śhādhi māṁ tvāṁ prapaṇnam" - "I am your disciple, I have surrendered to you, therefore teach me."



Characteristics of True Friendship

Acharya Tadany shares a beautiful definition of friendship from traditional wisdom:

पापात् निवारयति (pāpāt nivārayati): "Restrains (one) from sin"

योजयते हिताय (yojayate hitāya): "Engages (one) in beneficial acts"

गुह्यं निगूहति (guhyaṁ nigūhati): "Conceals (one's) secrets"

गुणान् प्रकटीकरोति (guṇān prakāṭīkaroti): "Reveals (one's) virtues"

आपद्गतं च (āpadgataṁ ca): "And (one) who is in distress"

न च हाति (na ca hāti): "Does not abandon"

ददाति काले (dadāti kāle): "Gives (help) in time (of need)"

सन्मित्रलक्षणम् (sanmitra-lakṣaṇam): "The characteristic of a good friend"

इदम् (idam): "This"

प्रवदन्ति सन्तः (pravadanti santaḥ): "The wise declare"

Acharya Tadany attributes this definition to "Bhartrihari Niti Shatakam" and emphasizes that a true friend has the responsibility to point out mistakes and suggest solutions, which is what Krishna does for Arjuna.

Self-Knowledge as the Greatest Secret

Krishna describes the wisdom he's sharing as "Uttamam Rahasyam" - the greatest secret in the universe. Acharya Tadany explains that it's considered a secret because what we search for in life is actually within ourselves, but we tend to overlook what is closest to us.

The Story of the Thief and the Rich Man

To illustrate how we overlook what's close to us, Acharya Tadany shares a story:

A rich man and a master thief were traveling by train from Kanyakumari to Rishikesh (a 3-5 day journey). Each day, the rich man would count his money, and each night, the thief would search for it but couldn't find it. On the last day, the thief confessed his failure and asked where the money was hidden. The rich man revealed he had hidden it under his own pillow - the one place the thief never thought to look because it was too obvious and close.



Life's Distractions from Wisdom

Acharya Tadany quotes a verse describing how people spend different life stages distracted from self-knowledge:

bālastāvatkrīḍāsaktaḥ
taruṇastāvattaruṇīsaktaḥ |
vṛddhastāvaccintāsaktaḥ.. ॥

This describes how in childhood we are absorbed in play, in youth we chase worldly desires and pleasures, and in old age we worry constantly about family, health, and the future. With this pattern, when will we ever gain this body of knowledge?

Timing of Spiritual Learning

Acharya Tadany criticizes the common approach of postponing spiritual learning until retirement. He uses an analogy:

If someone is going to the cold Himalayas for Char Dham Yatra (which opens May-October) and I give them a sweater when they return to hot Pune in May, what use is it? Similarly, knowledge about how to live should be acquired during one's active years, not at the end of life.

Bhagavad Gītā as Remembered Wisdom

Acharya Tadany explains the distinction between Vedic knowledge types:

- śruti - The original Vedas that were "heard" by rishis in meditation
- smṛti - "That which is remembered" - including the Bhagavad Gītā

The Bhagavad Gītā is described as the "nectar of wisdom" or "wishful fulfilling free of the Vedas" - like a ripened fruit that has fallen from the tree. Acharya Tadany explains that the rishis have already "digested" half of this wisdom, making it easier for students to absorb. We need only to expose ourselves to it, listen, absorb, and memorize (smṛti).

Arjuna's Doubt About Krishna's Timeline

At the end of the session, Acharya Tadany addresses Arjuna's doubt regarding Krishna's claim to have taught this wisdom to Surya Bhagavan (the sun god) at the beginning of creation:

Arjuna questions: Your birth is recent while Surya's birth was millennia ago. How can Krishna have taught Surya if Krishna was born recently to Devaki? This chronological discrepancy troubles Arjuna.



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Acharya Tadany notes that Krishna will address this in the next class by introducing the concept of avatars (divine incarnations), which explains how Krishna could exist both at creation and in the present time.